

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:CGBUCK:SCT

APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062304

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN FY 1975 APPROPRIATION LEVEL

DELIVER AMBASSADOR VANCE OPENING OF BUSINESS

FOR VANCE FROM ERNST - EYES ONLY

1. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE EARLIER RECOMMENDED
FY 75 APPROPRIATION OF SECTION 482 FUNDS AT LEVEL DOLLARS
42.5 MILLION. SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT THIS WEEK RECOMMENDS REDUCTION OF
SECTION 482 FUNDS FOR FY 75 FROM DOLLARS 42.5 MILLION TO
DOLLARS 32.5 MILLION.

2. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF HAVE DISCUSSED
SENATE REDUCTION WITH S/NM AND HAVE AGREED ATTEMPT TO ASSURE
APPROPRIATION IN FINAL HOUSE/SENATE CONFERENCE BILL WHICH
WILL PROVIDE ALL FUNDING WE SEE REQUIRED FOR NARCOTICS PRO-
GRAM.

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3. COVERING ALL CONTINGENCIES WE NOW FORESEE HERE, FY 75

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TOTAL DOLLARS 38.1 MILLION INCLUDING DOLLARS 5.4 MILLION FOR BURMA (SECOND TRANCHE OF 5 HELICOPTERS) DOLLARS 12.4 FOR MEXICO (INCLUDING TWO ADDITIONAL

HELICOPTERS WE APPROVED MARCH 18 AND DOLLARS 3.5 MILLION FOR THE 1976 CAMPAIGN), DOLLARS .7 MILLION FOR JAMAICA, DOLLARS .6 MILLION FOR COLOMBIA, AND DOLLARS 4.8 MILLION FOR THAILAND (FOR TOTALITY OF PROGRAMS YOU EARLIER APPROVED). VARIETY OF OTHER LESSER AMOUNTS INCLUDED FOR PROGRAM ON WHICH FINAL AGREEMENT MAY NOT BE REACHED BY JUNE 30.

4. SENATE/HOUSE WILL PROBABLY SCHEDULE CONFERENCE MARCH 20 OR 21 IN ORDER PERMIT FINAL APPROVAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL EASTER RECESS AND EXPIRATION CURRENT CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON MARCH 25.

5. VIEW CURRENT PLANNING LEVEL ABOVE, WE SEE RUNNING RISK OF REAL CREDIBILITY GAP WITH PRESENTLY HELPFUL HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE AND STAFF IF WE NOW ARGUE FOR NEED FULL DOLLARS 42.5 MILLION AND END THE YEAR WITH LARGE (4 TO 5 MILLION) UNOBLIGATED BALANCE. THEREFORE, IF YOU CONCUR WE WILL STRESS DOLLARS 42.5 DESIRABLE FOR MEETING TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY (WHICH WE WOULD AT THIS TIME BE HARD PRESSED TO SPECIFY), BUT AT SAME TIME ACKNOWLEDGE OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS APPEARS NOW TO BE DOLLARS 38.1 MILLION AND THUS NOT, AS SEEMS LIKELY, GO DOWN INSISTING ON DOLLARS 42.5 MILLION.

6. DO YOU CONCUR? REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE062304
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CGBUCK:SCT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750096-0459
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750335/aaaabfce.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REDUCTION IN FY 1975 APPROPRIATION LEVEL DELIVER AMBASSADOR VANCE OPENING OF BUSINESS
TAGS: SNAR, US
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006